

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



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THE ISSUE
YOU MUST
NOT MISS!

TO END--
TO BEGIN!

A STARTLING
NEW STEP
IN THE
CAREER OF
COMICS'
GREATEST
MARTIAL
ARTS
HERO



**The most exciting original
motion picture event of all time.**



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"Call me Shang Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

DOUG MOENCH * **JIM CRAIG** * **PABLO MARCUS** * **D. WOHL** * **D. WARFIELD** * **A. GOODWIN**
WRITER ARTIST INKER LETTERING COLORIST EDITOR

"I REMEMBER A TIME SIX DAYS PAST. I STOOD WITH RESTON, IN A SMALL METAL WORLD CIRCLING THE MOON. WE WATCHED AS MY FATHER HURTTED INTO BLACKNESS... ESCAPING IN HIS SMALLER METAL WORLD.

"PERHAPS DYING.



"FROM A GUNSHOT WOUND INFLECTED BY... ME?"

EPILOGUE

BRASS and **BLACKNESS** (A DEATH MOVE!!)

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"PERHAPS IT IS THIS... CEREMONY... WHICH BRINGS THE MEMORY OF THAT TIME..."

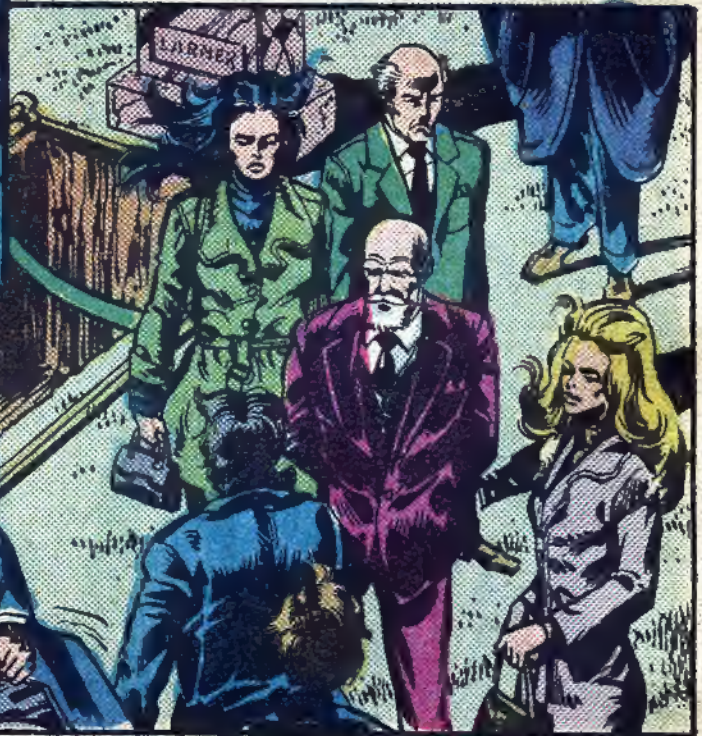


"...THIS SLOW MOVE OF SADNESS AND LOSS, IN HONOR OF DEATH..."

"...THIS COLD GRIP OF BRASS HANDLES..."



"...THIS... BOX... OF BLACKNESS"



AND NOW... SHALL WE BEGIN..."

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO MOURN THE PASSING OF A LOVED ONE.

"THERE WILL COME A RAIN... SOON."

JAMES LARNER, DEARLY BELOVED, ONCE A MAN SO FILLED WITH LIFE, AND THE JOY THEREOF, THAT THE PROMISE OF HIS PASSING--

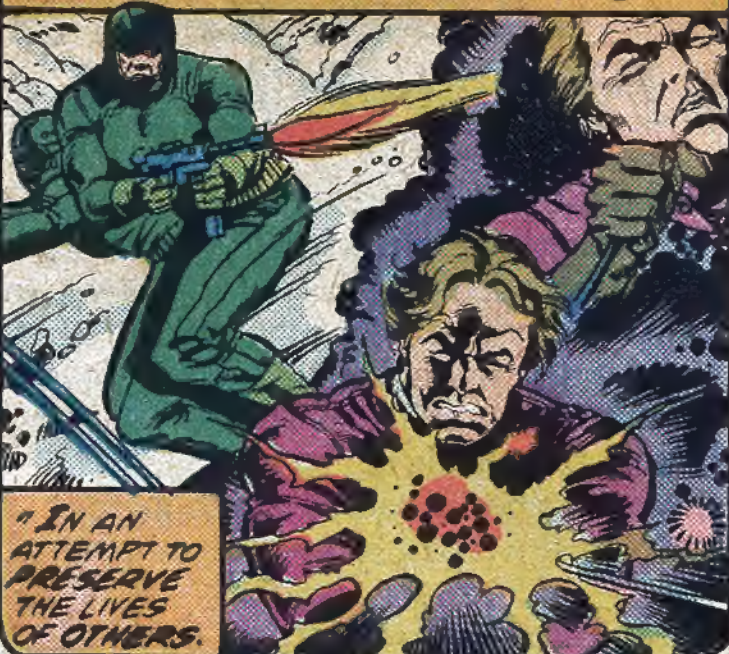
--SEEMED A MOST DISTANT THING.



STILL, AS ALL THINGS
MUST COME TO PASS,
EARTH TO EARTH, DUST
TO DUST, ASHES TO
ASHES, SO TOO MUST
THE FLESH PASS ON
TO A HIGHER
SPIRITUAL PLANE.



BUT NOBLE WAS THE MANNER OF
JAMES LARNER'S PASSING-- A SACRIFICE
OF THAT MOST PRECIOUS GIFT OF LIFE--



"IN AN
ATTEMPT TO
PRESERVE
THE LIVES
OF OTHERS.

THERE ARE NO TEARS
ON LEIKO'S FACE.

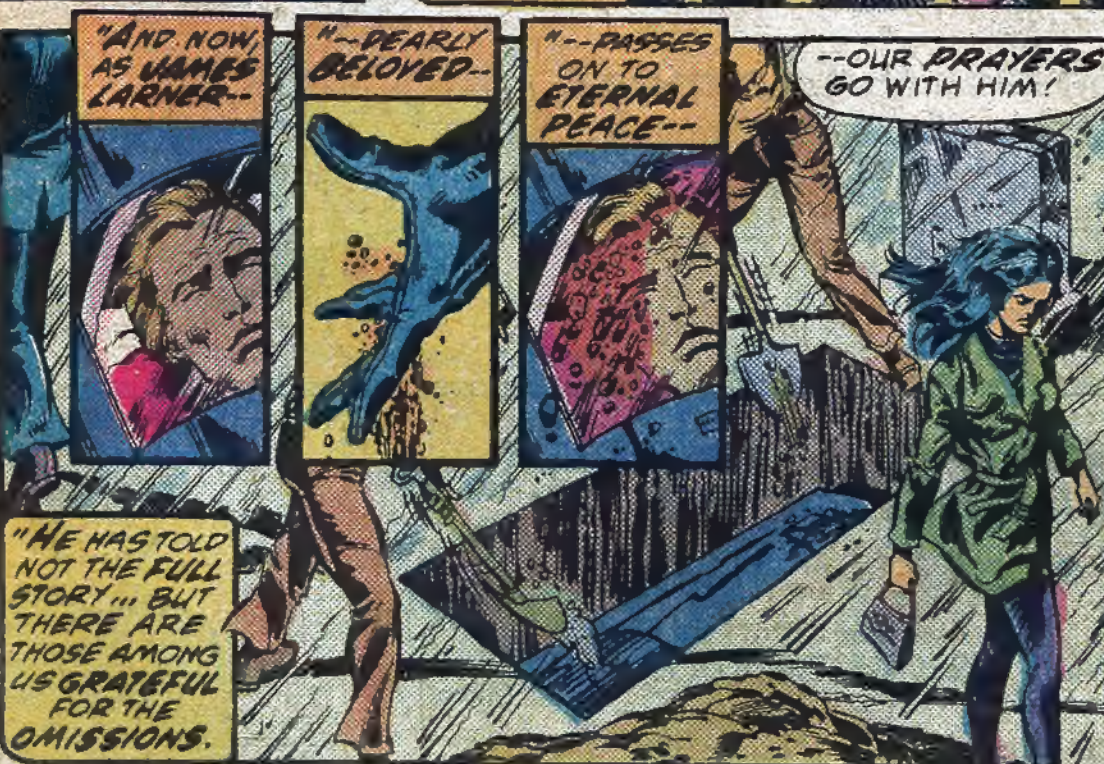


"AND NOW,
AS JAMES
LARNER--

"--DEARLY
BELOVED--

"--PASSES
ON TO
ETERNAL
PEACE--

--OUR PRAYERS
GO WITH HIM!



"HE HAS TOLD
NOT THE FULL
STORY... BUT
THERE ARE
THOSE AMONG
US GRATEFUL
FOR THE
OMISSIONS.

"LEIKO, MORE THAN
ANY OTHER.

A-AMEN...

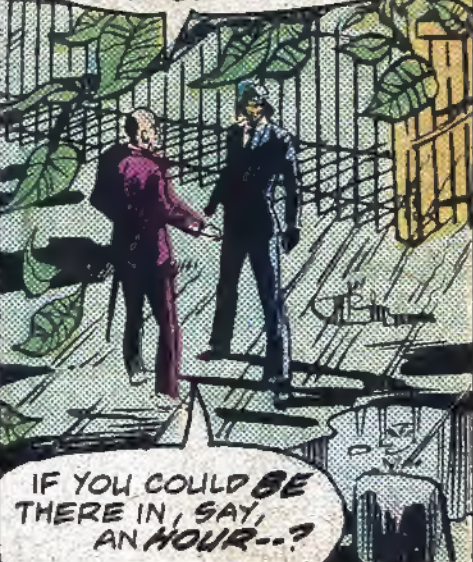
"SHE HAS
FOUND
NEW
TEARS,
WHERE
THERE
WERE NO
MORE
TO GIVE.

"THE RAIN FALLS HARDER,
NOW, AS THE HEAVENS ALSO
WEEP, AS I WALK FROM THE
SOUNDS OF
EARTH
GREETING
BLACKNESS.



SHANG-CHI--
COULD I, AH,
SPEAK WITH
YOU A MOMENT,
LAD?

I'VE ALREADY TOLD THE
OTHERS-- BUT I WAS UNABLE
TO CONTACT YOU. THERE
WILL BE A MEETING, IN MY
OFFICE AT WHITECHAPEL
--MI-6.



IF YOU COULD BE
THERE IN, SAY,
AN HOUR--?

I HAD PLANNED
TO BE THERE,
SMITH, ALTHOUGH
THE TIME IS
UNIMPORTANT.



EN--? BUT HOW
COULD YOU--? WHAT
DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

The Mighty Meat Snack conquers The Horrible Hungries.

You've tangled with the Hungries before. They sneak up behind you at the library, and make your stomach growl until your face turns red. They strike when you're halfway home from school, at least ten minutes from the nearest sandwich.

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Joe proudly poses with his famous pupil, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mr. Olympia winner.

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"I DO NOT REPLY TO SMITH'S QUESTION. INDEED, I WALK THROUGH THE RAIN, ALONE..."

"... MY MEMORIES, SILENT, BURNING, ANSWERING SMITH'S QUESTION FOR ME, BUT IN TERMS AND IMAGES HE CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND."

"MEMORIES, AGAIN, OF SIX DAYS PAST: WHEN RESTON AND I WATCHED MY FATHER DISAPPEAR INTO BLACKNESS..."

WELL, CHI, HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE IN HIS SHUTTLE-CRAFT... BUT AT LEAST FU MANCHU IS FINALLY DEAD.

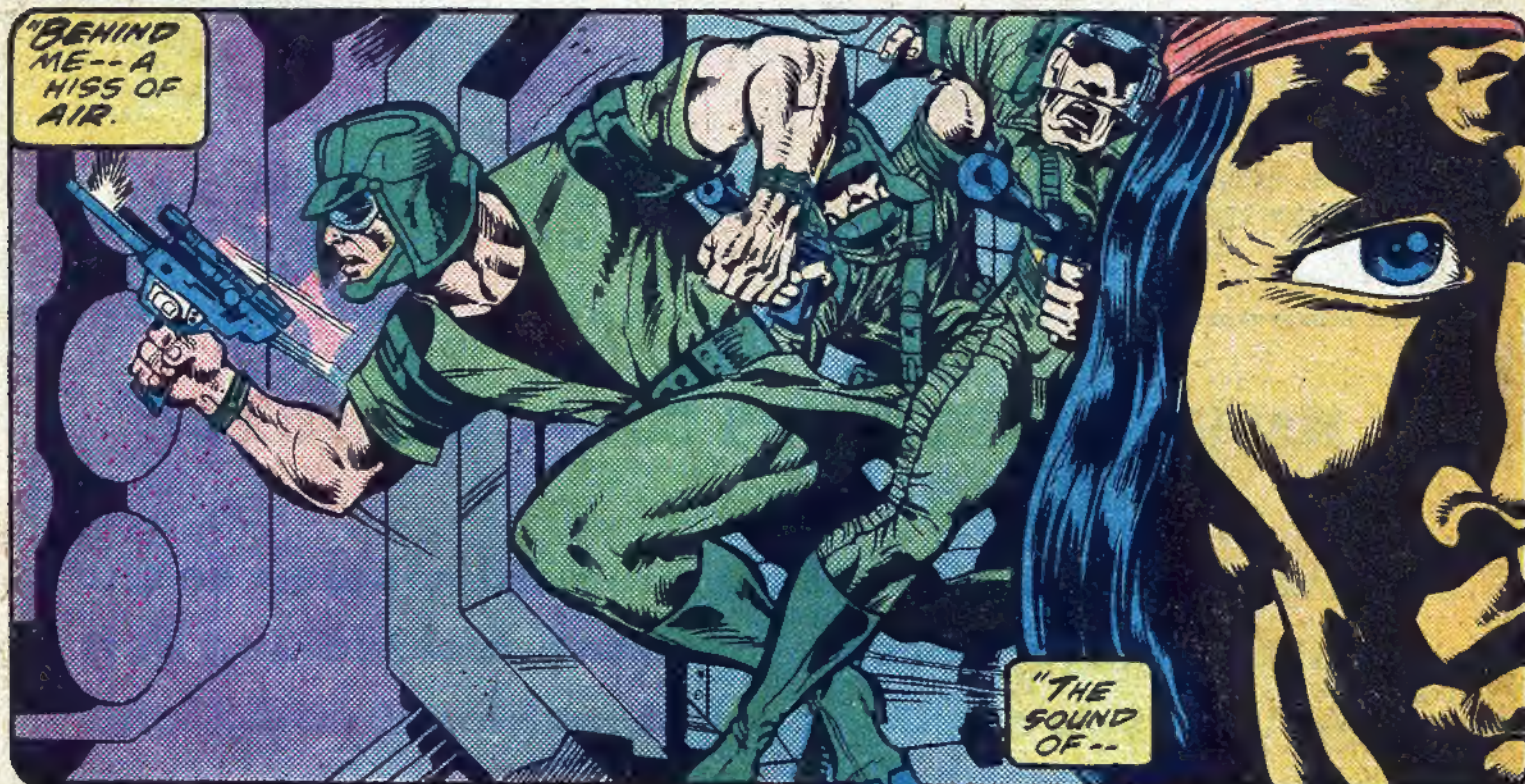
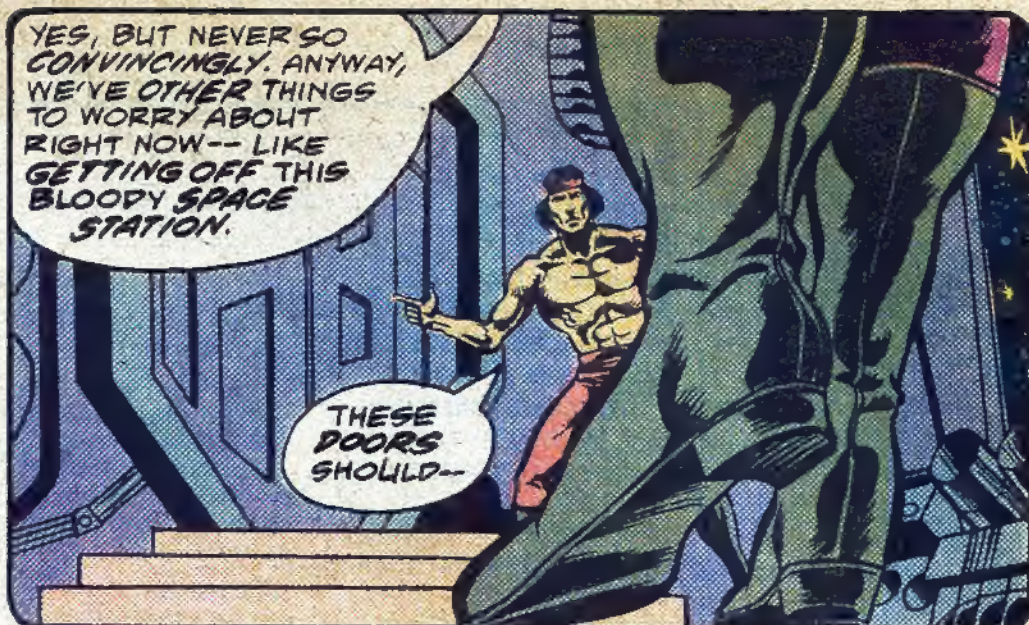
PERHAPS, RESTON.

PERHAPS? YOU SHOT HIM YOURSELF-- ALTHOUGH YOU DID HAVE ME WORRIED THERE FOR A MOMENT, THE WAY YOU HESITATED, THINKING OF HIM AS YOUR FATHER RATHER THAN AS FU MANCHU...

HERE, CHI! USE MY GUN!

YOU'VE GOT TO! IT'S THE ONLY WAY NOW!!

"I KNOW IT WAS TOUGH FOR YOU, CHI, BUT YOU DID IT... IN THE END. AND HE WAS DYING EVEN AS HE LEFT."





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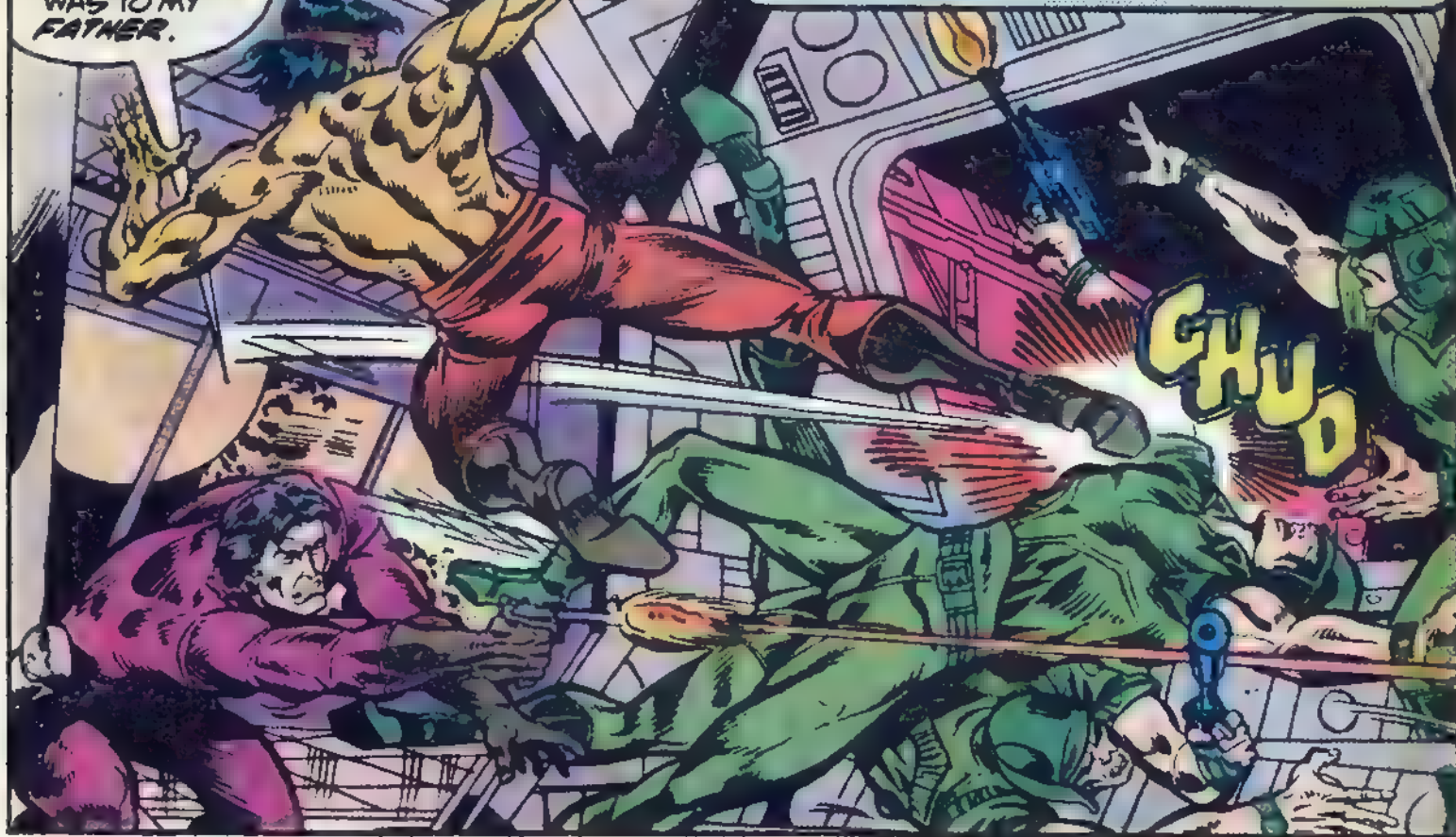
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OH, THERE YOU ARE, AND NONE TOO SOON. SOMETIMES I THINK YOU'RE MORE HELP TO ME THAN FELIX WAS TO MY FATHER.

BUT ONE THING BOTHERS ME, CHI-- WHAT IF I'D DECIDED TO STAND UP JUST THEN.

"AS EVER, RESTON SEEKS TO DEFLECT THE POSSIBILITY OF DEATH WITH A SCREEN OF WORDS. ONE DAY HE WILL DIE WITH UNSPOKEN WORDS LODGED IN HIS THROAT, THE INITIAL FRAGMENT OF A SENTENCE HANGING IN THE AIR... AN UNFINISHED EPITAPH FOLLOWING HIM INTO THE EARTH."



"ONE SI-FAN LEFT. HE SPINS, KICKING, MISSING ME-- BUT SNAPPING A CABLE.



"WHIPPING TOWARD ME!"



"MUST CATCH IT..."

"...SEND IT BACK--"



"AARRSHH!"



"--AT NIM."

FACE FRONT, MARVELITES!

LOOK WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE--

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(AND YOU THOUGHT WE DIDN'T LOVE YA! SHAME!)

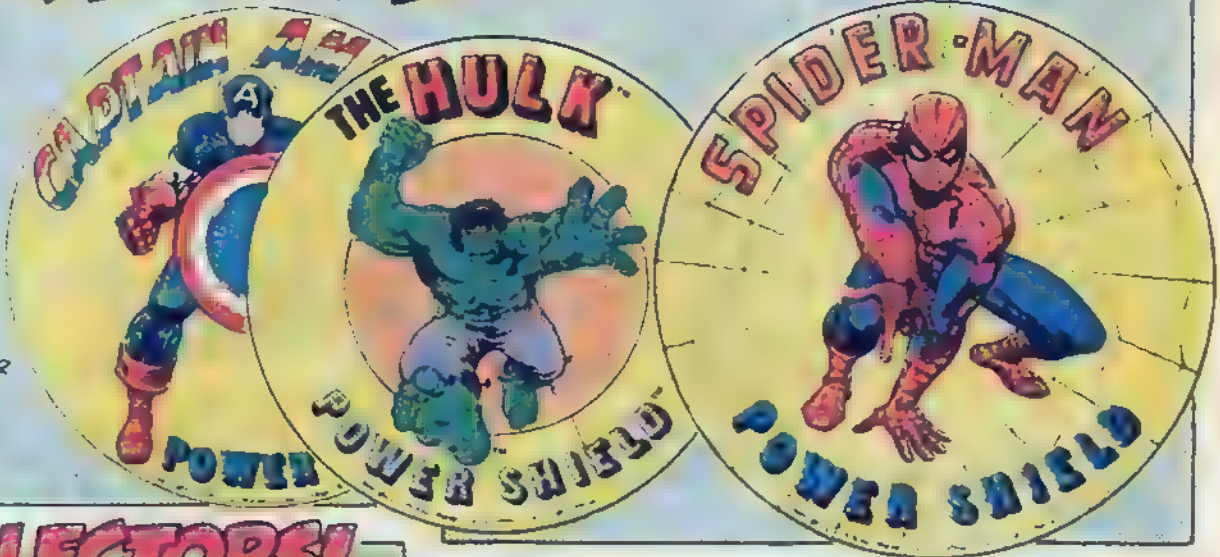
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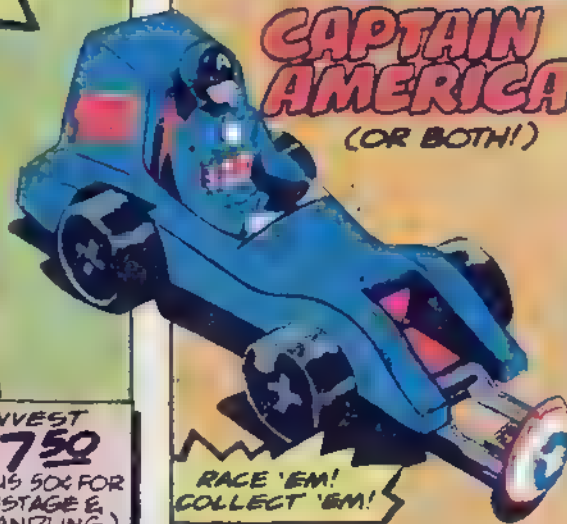


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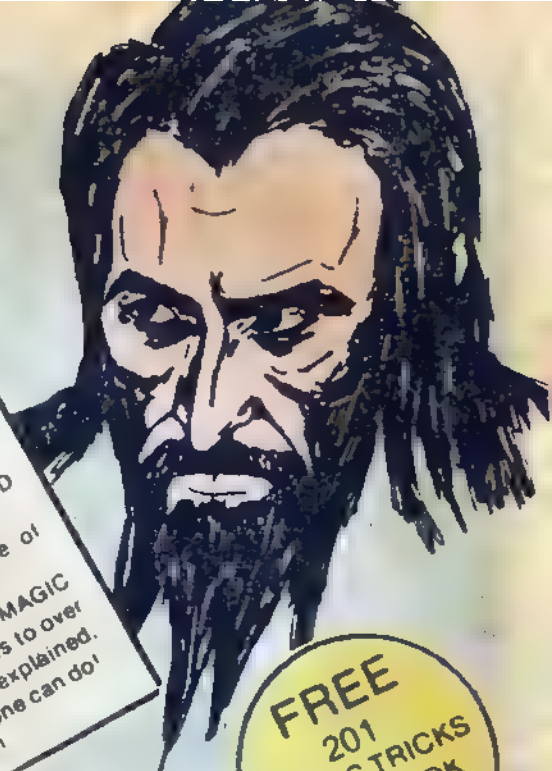
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the S-H-O-O-K of (beet) the! Touch
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NOW, AS I WAS SAYING--
WE MAY HAVE FOILED FU
MANCHU'S SCHEME TO
DESTROY THE MOON,
BUT WE'RE STILL STUCK
UP HERE IN THIS BLOODY
SPACE STATION...

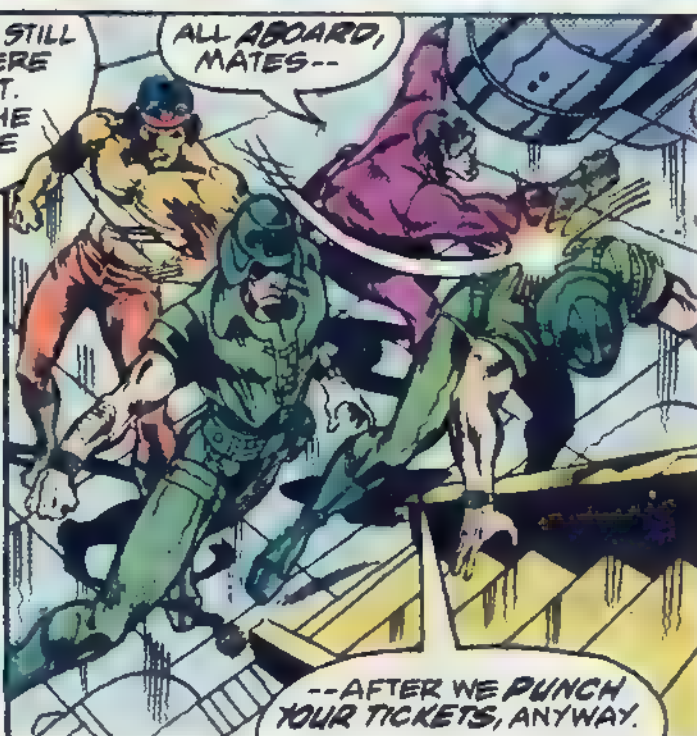
...AND UNTIL WE STAND
SAFELY BACK ON GOOD
OLD TERRA FIRMA, WE
HAVE NOT SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETED THIS
MISSION--AT LEAST NOT
FROM OLD CLIVE'S
POINT OF VIEW.

AND IF I REMEMBER
CORRECTLY, THE SHUTTLE-
ROCKET'S BACK THIS
WAY.

JUST HOPE IT'S
GOT ENOUGH PETROL
FOR THE RETURN
TRIP.



THERE IT IS, STILL
DOCKED WHERE
WE LEFT IT.
I'LL TAKE THE
ONE ON THE
LEFT...



ALL ABOARD,
MATES--

--AFTER WE PUNCH
YOUR TICKETS, ANYWAY.



"INSIDE,
RESTON
SCOWLS..."

CONTROLS ARE BAFF-
LING, AS USUAL. WISH
ME LUCK IN HITTING
THE RIGHT SWITCH--

--SINCE THIS IS
LITTLE BETTER THAN
A CLOSED-EYES
STAB.

"BEFORE US, THE
HATCH BEGINS TO
OPEN. THERE IS
MOVEMENT,
TREMBLING,
SHAKING..."

VOILA!!

"...AND THE SMALLER SHUTTLE-
CRAFT EMERGES FROM ITS DOCKING
POSITION WITHIN THE MOTHER SHIP,
WHICH IS MY FATHER'S NOW USELESS
DOOM DEVICE.

"I HAVE THOUGHT OF LEIKO, HER DARK EYES, FOR A LONG PASSAGE THROUGH DEEPER DARKNESS. NOW, WE NEAR THE LIGHT OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

SINCE IT WOULDN'T DO TO TRY A CRASH LANDING, CHI--

--HERE'S HOPING I FIND ANOTHER RIGHT SWITCH--

VOILA AGAIN!

NOW IF ONLY THE CHUTES OPEN.

ELEMENTARY, INDEED! I MAY TAKE THIS UP AS MY NEW TRADE-- SKY HERO RESTON OF THE SPACEWAYS!

ONE MOMENT-- IS THAT YOU CRACKLING, MI-6?

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU MONITOR ALL FREQUENCIES? BEEN TRYING TO GET YOU FOR THE PAST HALF-HOUR!

DUCHARME AND A LOAD OF SI-FAN ARE STILL STRANDED UP THERE IN ORBIT-- IF YOU CAN GET THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO FOOT THE BILL FOR A RESCUE ROCKET...

AND SOMEBODY BLOODY WELL BETTER FOOT THE BILL TO COME GET US, WE SEEM TO BE ADRIFT SOMEWHERE OFF THE EASTERN COAST OF ASIA, THANKS TO FU MANCHU'S AUTOMATIC PILOT, NO DOUBT.

ASIA? GOOD LORD, MAN-- YOU'RE WITHIN THE TARGET AREA!

STAND BY! I'LL NOTIFY THEM THAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSION. TELL THEM TO TAKE THE MISSILES OFF ALERT!

"MISSILES?"

TARGET AREA? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? NEVER MIND, WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

EVERYONE IS FINE... EXCEPT THAT LARNER BLOKE. I'M AFRAID HE'S... BEEN ELIMINATED.

DEAD? LARNER... IS DEAD?!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT FIEND FU MANCHU DID TO HIS MIND. THE LADS IN PSYCHOLOGY HAD THE DEVIL OF A TIME RESTORING PETRIE'S TRUE PERSONALITY.

IT...UH...WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE VESTIGIAL EFFECTS OF THEIR HYPNOSIS-REINDOCTRINATION COMPLETELY SUBSIDE.

BUT GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS, I MUST ADMIT WE WERE IN AN EXTREMELY PRECARIOUS POSITION BEFORE YOU, CHI, AND CLIVE MANAGED TO MIRACULOUSLY SAVE THE DAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER INSISTED ON PROMOTING ALL MISSILES TO FULL ALERT, EVEN COERCING THE AMERICANS INTO COOPERATION.

ALL OUR NUCLEAR WARHEADS WERE PRIMED AND AIMED AT EVERY SQUARE INCH OF CHINA, SHOULD YOU LADS HAVE FAILED.

"THEN...IT IS TRUE. THEY WOULD GO SO FAR...BEFORE DYING.

"BUT THAT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW.

"I SUPPOSE MY REAL PURPOSE IN CALLING THIS MEETING WAS TO PROVIDE A FORUM OF CONFESSION --AN EXCUSE FOR OPENING A SMALL WINDOW ONTO MY SOUL.

"YOU SEE, NOW THAT FU MANCHU IS FINALLY DEAD, I FEEL RATHER EMPTY AND WITHOUT PURPOSE. I AM OLD, AND A HEAVY WEIGHT HAS JUST BEEN LIFTED FROM ME. PERHAPS IT'S TIME I SIMPLY... FLOATED AWAY."

"BEYOND THE WINDOWS, BEYOND SMITH'S VOICE, THE RAIN CONTINUES TO FALL. IT IS FITTING.

BUT...I'VE DECIDED TO CARRY ON, IN TRUE STIFF-LIPPER-LIP FASHION. I HOPE YOU FOUR WILL STAY WITH ME, WORKING FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE. NOW HAVE YOU ANY THOUGHTS??

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Greetings, People: Hope you enjoy this last/first, conclusion/beginning, wrap-up/launch-out, epilogue/prologue issue. In other words, there are indeed some changes in store for the MASTER OF KUNG FU book, and in more than one sense of the word. For instance: One man's ending is another's beginning. So it is with Paul Gulacy and Jim Craig. As most of you know by now, Paul has decided to take an indefinite hiatus from the pages of MOKF—and, largely, from comics in general. Oh, he'll likely pop up here & there, now & then, but for the nonce the peerless Mr. Gulacy has chosen to concentrate on honing his skills in the painting field. Fitting, then, that his parting shot should be the cover he was never able to draw (for one reason or another, none good) during his stint on the interior of the book. And it's magnificent, ain't it? Thanks, Paul, for the cover and for all the other magnificence. Needless to say, good luck in your future.

Speaking of magnificence, ahem, we trust you've already gazed at Gentleman Jim Craig's debut on the interior art...? Yeah, we kinda thought you had. As far as the Bullpen is concerned, we couldn't be happier; Jim has done a superb job, we feel, in capturing the unique tone, mood, spirit, and characterization of an extremely difficult title, to say the least. And y'know what? According to the Toronto-to-Bedminster, Pa. grapevine, it's only gonna get better. Yep; Jim himself just phoned diehard-scripter Doug Moench to say that he's really digging Shang-Chi (not to mention Leiko, of course) and that he expects to attain a full head of steam faster than you can yell HIIIIYAH! In the meantime, let us know how you feel about the lad's first shot at the book. (And welcome aboard, Jim!)

Now, before you string us up by the adjectives, maybe we can print a letter or three...

Dear Doug and Paul,

"Phantom Sand" in MOKF #47 was, for a variety of reasons, the best chapter of the six-part Fu Manchu saga to appear thus far. I reveled in its relentless drive, its non-stop intrigue, and its explosive finale, culminating with the defeat of Fah Lo Suee's faction of Si-Fan and its subsequent reabsorption into the "army" commanded by Fu Manchu himself. As the covers so often declare, it was "action all the way," but with a good deal of depth to it as well.

I mentioned intrigue. Well, completely aside from Leiko and Shang-Chi's short-lived disguises, there was a brief glimpse of the recuperating Nayland Smith, a one-panel shot of Dr. Petrie having his brain turned around, and the not unexpected (by this observer, anyway; I've learned to expect the unexpected) revelation that DuCharme is actually loyal to Fu Manchu, not Smith. How Sir Denis will react when he learns he's been triple-crossed is something for the future, but judging by the way things have been going for double-agents here of late, I don't like her chances at all. You don't agree? Ask Sir Herbert Griswold.

A number of "little things" contributed to the overall success of "Phantom Sand," nice leafy touches deserving mention. First, the ballet-like grace with which Leiko and Shang-Chi exited Fah Lo Suee's aircraft on page 11; much has already been said about the startling contrast between the beauty of movement and the ugliness of the raw, violent reality underlying hand-to-hand combat. This sequence underscores the point perfectly. The one-page love scene between the two characters is also worthy of comment. It was extremely genuine, devoid of schmaltz and soap operatics, and contained the delicately charming passage which provided this tale with its title: "The snow hisses in the wind, swirling...like phantom sand." Just beautiful, Doug. Which brings me to the last little thing contributing to my overall enjoyment of this issue, the

appearance of communications expert David Niven...I mean, Ward Sarsfield. This not only provided a light (albeit macabre) humorous touch before the story's ominous conclusion, but it also gave Doug the opportunity to name a character after Sir Arthur Sarsfield Ward, who wrote the Fu Manchu novels under the pseudonym of Sax Rohmer. This sort of "in joke" is something I always enjoy spotting.

And so, another example of comics-as-cinema (or is it cinema-as-comics?) passes on into the mists of time. There'll be a new one in thirty days, of course, and probably another of these deathless analytical missives to go with it. Till then, keep warm.

Ed Via
1648 Dean Road
Roanoke, VA 24018

What can we say, Ed? There are some six or seven of your highly perceptive letters in our Shang-Chi files, and we felt we just had to print at least one of them. None were exactly controversial or polemically discursive, but each and every one of them sure made us feel good. So I guess all we can really say is: Thanks, and keep writing!

Dear Doug and Paul,

Having been a MOKF reader since SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15, I think I know a good MOKF story when I see one. But because I still find Moench and Gulacy's work beyond words, I'll just say one thing:

After reading MASTER OF KUNG FU #45, I subscribed.

Harvey Chin
4636 Mia Circle
San Jose, CA 95136

Say, Harv, with the state of distribution being what it is these days, maybe that ain't a bad idea. Matter of fact, rumor has it that Marvel Vanguard Stan himself has been contemplating a subscription to MOKF. (Understandable since, after examining a recent Shang-Chi issue, the Smiley One deemed it "an exemplary comic book." And when not-so-faint praise like that comes straight from the horse's mouth...)

Honorable Marvelmen:

I'm not going to say much, but I do want you to know that MOKF has reached a new height of glory. Doug's current six-part saga should be made into a movie, and I really mean that! Furthermore, every panel Paul draws should be framed forever.

And by the way, when Leiko's not busy saving the world, send her over.

T. W. Carl
Box 145
Frenchtown, NJ 08825

Send Leiko to Frenchtown, New Jersey--?! Hmm...that's right across the Delaware River from Doug's Pennsylvania digs; in fact, he picks up the New York bus right on the main drag of Frenchtown every time he makes a pilgrimage to the hallowed halls, as it were, of Marvel. And since the main drag seems to be just about the only street in town, the Devil-May-Care Lad could be right outside your window now, T.W., bleary-eyed, shivering, and holding up the bus stop sign. So be careful with that bucket of scrubwater, huh? One of these days he just might have a certain dark-haired traveling companion with him...

And that's about it, folks. We're not exactly sure which of two possible stories next issue will host, but either way it'll be offbeat excitement from start to finish. It might be the special Demon-Mask interim story, illustrated by Pat Broderick, which features Shang-Chi and Black Jack on their own, as well as the return of Tarr's Murder Mansion—or it might be Jim Craig's second MOKF offering, featuring our entire cast of characters plus a bizarre new villain called War-Yore. (And there's also a near-future, brand-new Rufus T. Hackstaber epic lurking in the wings.) So until next issue, when we all learn what's cookin'...be good.

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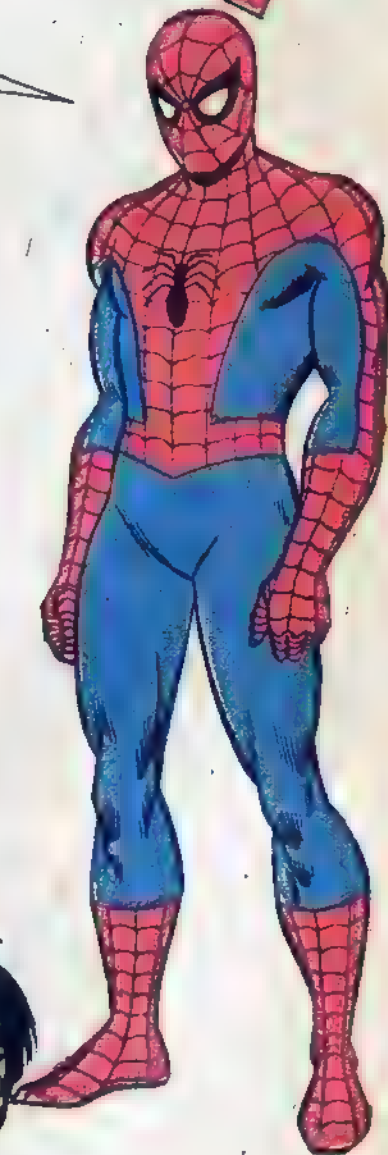
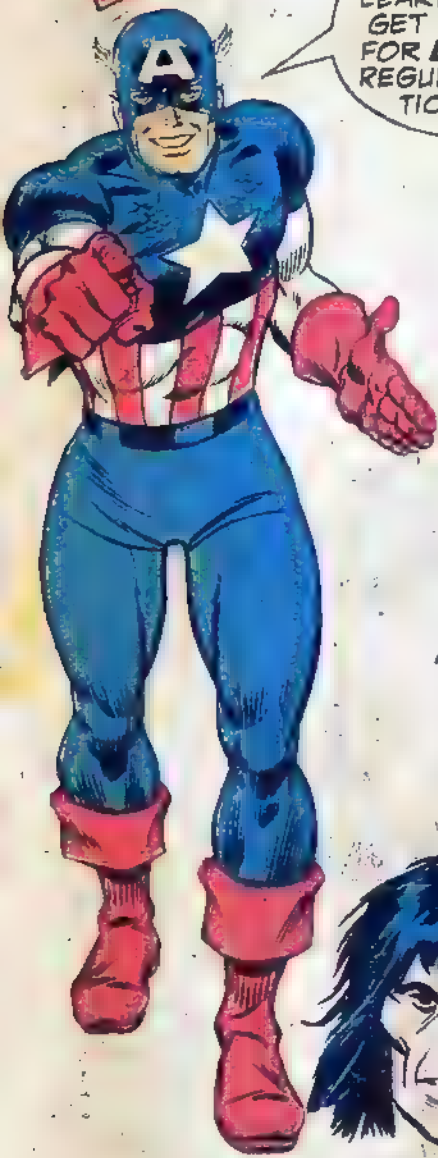
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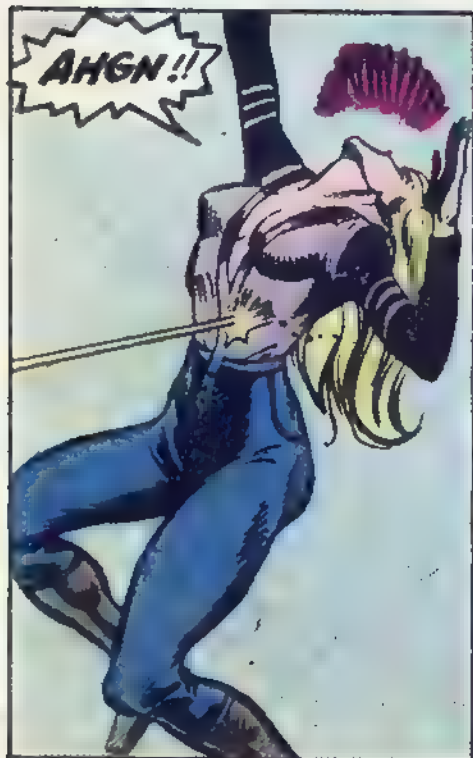
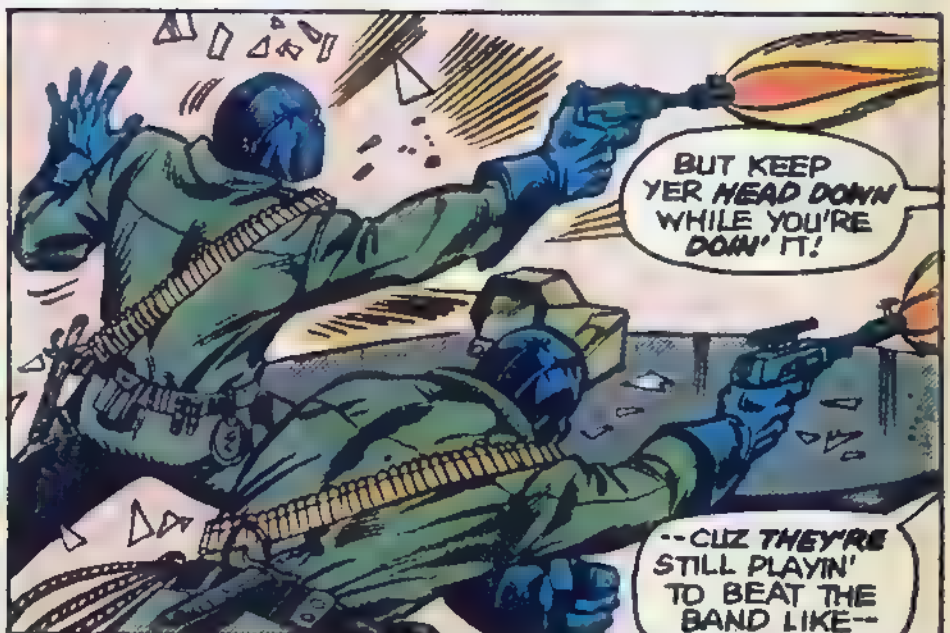
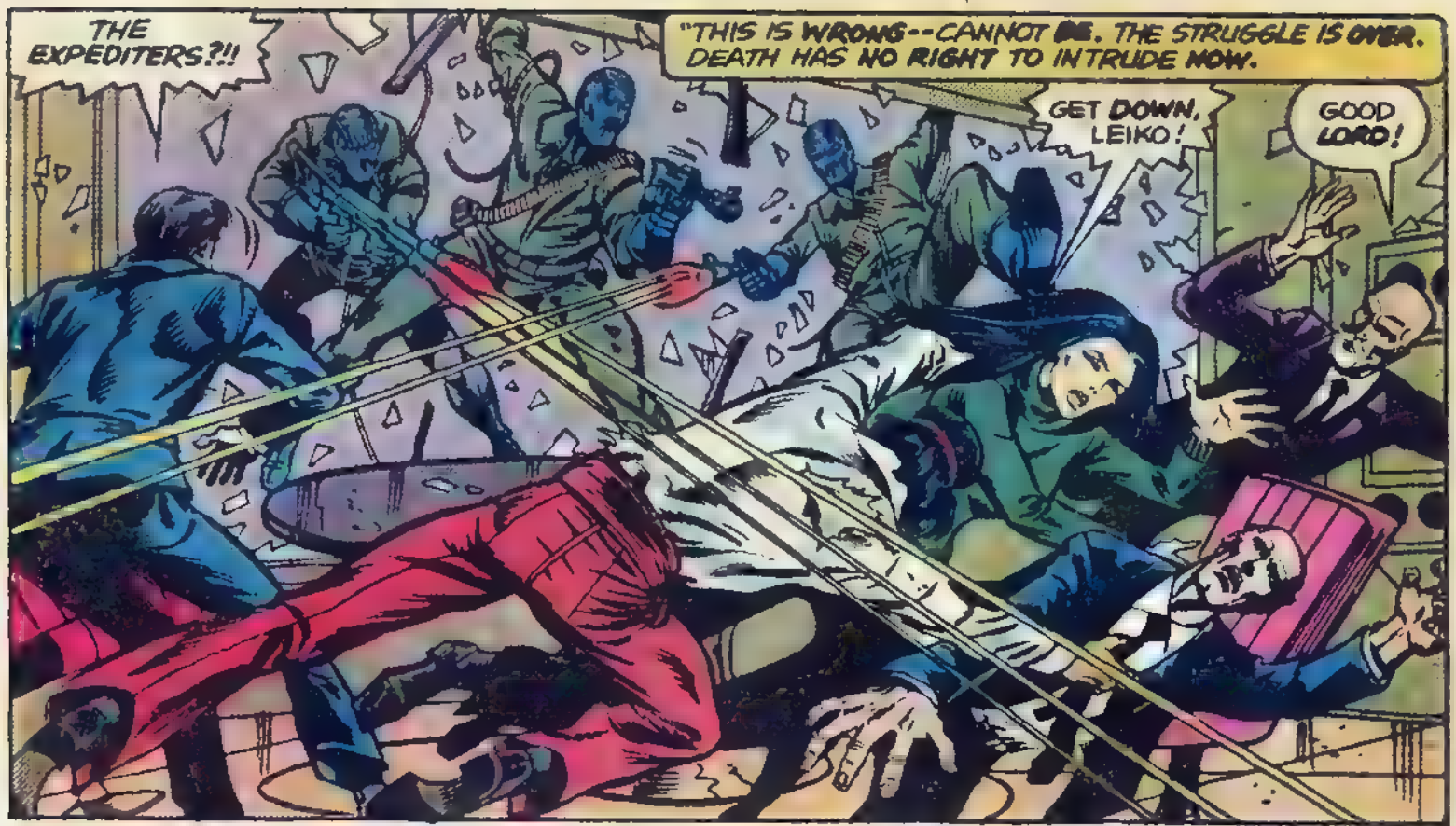
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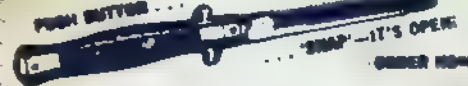
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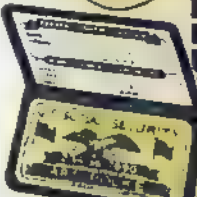
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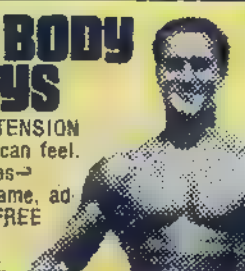
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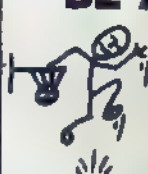
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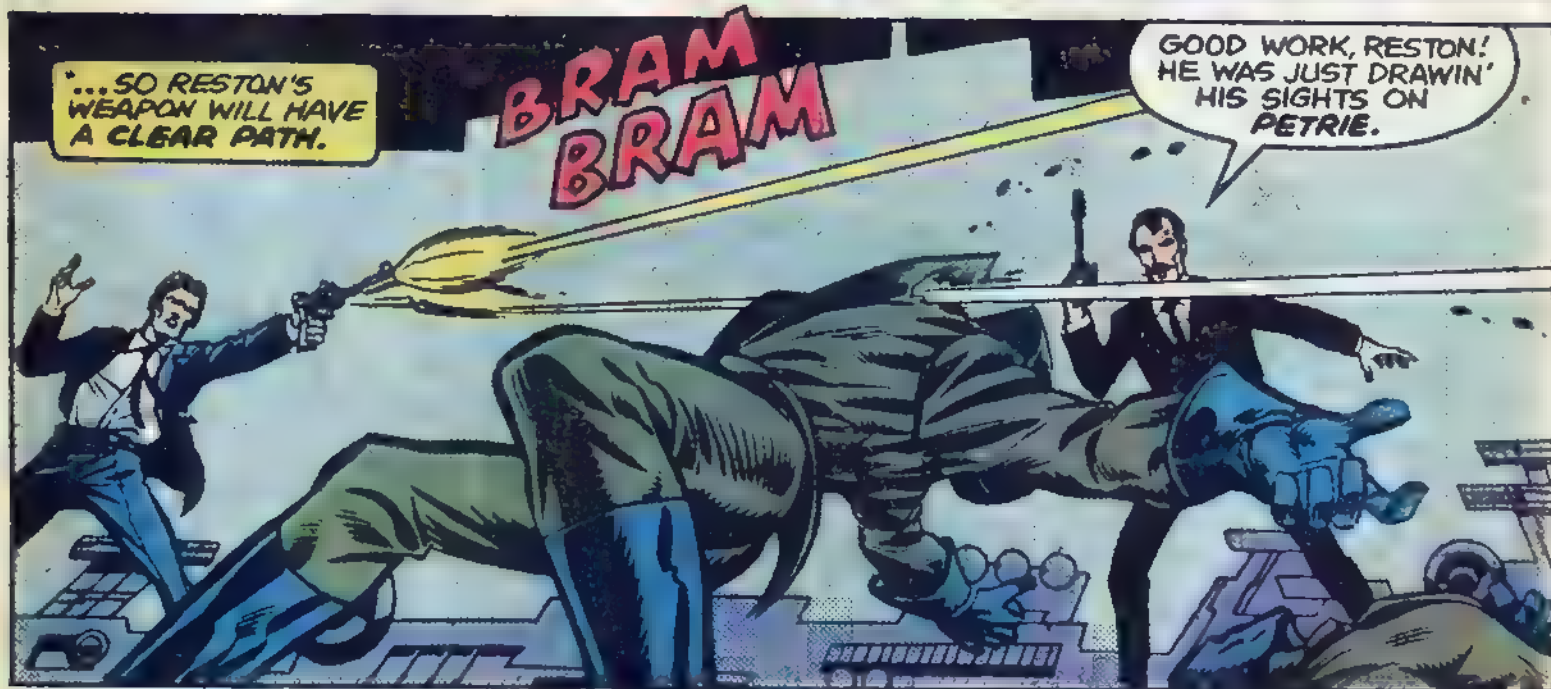
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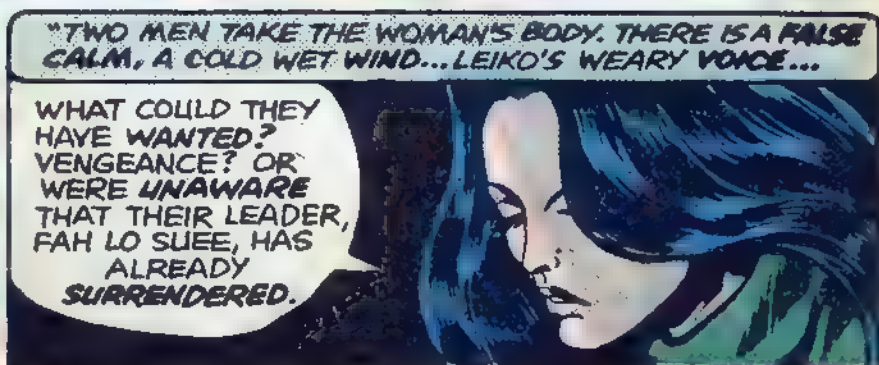
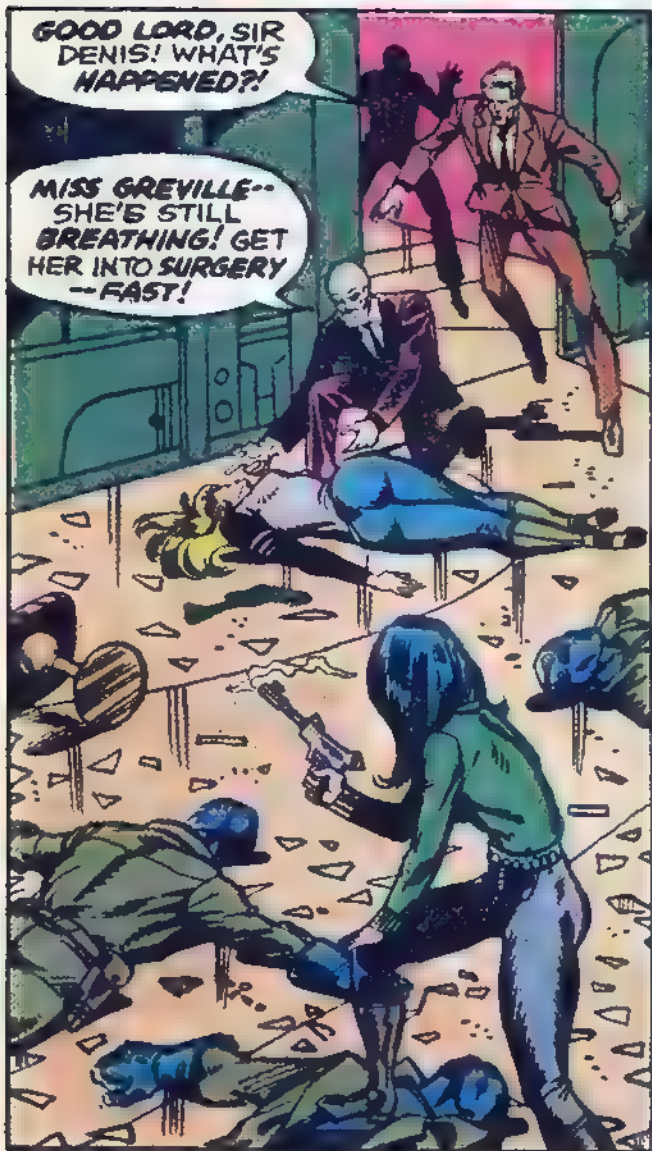
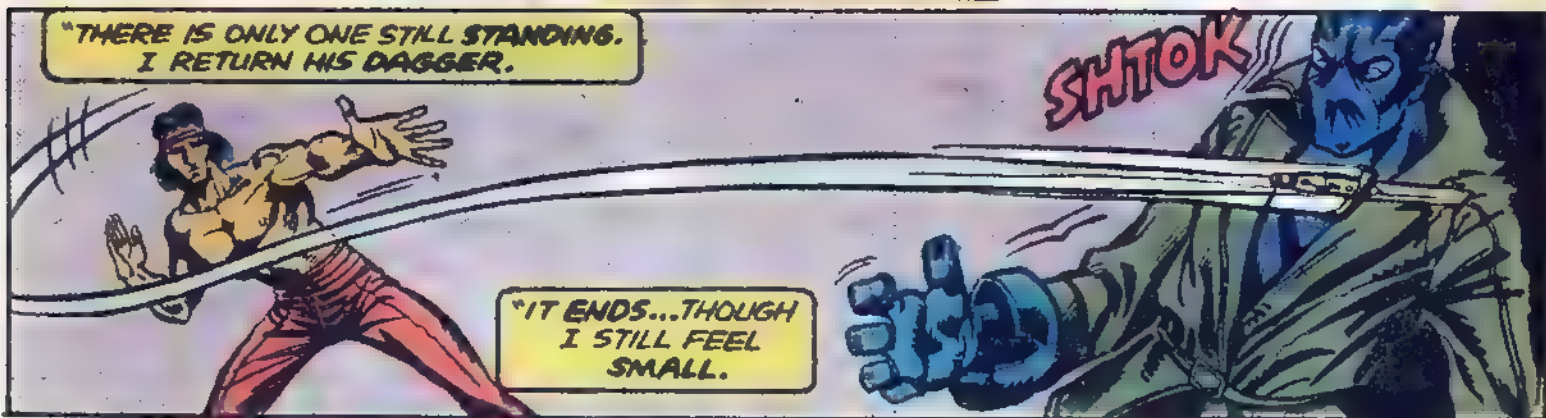
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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Okay, gang—this one's too exciting to keep for another minute! Every time I speak at some college or convention someone's sure to ask me, "Hey, when are you gonna write some more comic books?" or, "How about you and Kirby teamin' up again?" Well, I don't really have time to write a regular steady mag anymore, but—Jolly Jack and I have been itchin' to team up for one big, juicy, super-sensational project—and we've finally got it! Yep! The contracts are being written right now! We're planning to write and draw the world's longest and greatest comic-book story—a hard cover edition, to be published by Simon & Schuster, an original novel-length epic adventure of—THE SILVER SURFER! It'll be the toughest project we've ever attempted, 'cause everyone'll be waiting for it—and if it isn't as great as we hope it'll be, people'll start saying "Aww, that guy Lee is over the hill!" or, "Lee and Kirby—big deal!" So you can bet we'll do everything we can to make it the absolutely all-time most stupendous illustrated saga ever produced! It'll be on sale towards the end of '77, so start saving your shekels now—if one single copy remains unsold, we'll know that one of you goofed! And, while you're waiting, you needn't despair—there are still a few thousand copies of BRING ON THE BAD GUYS waiting for you to give 'em a home. Just go to your nearest book store, look intelligent, and yell "Make Mine Marvel!" And, if you play your cards right, you might also be able to find a combo pack of ORIGINS and SON OF ORIGINS as well. In fact, if you wanna buy 'em in a real fun place, and you happen to be near New Jersey's Livingston Mall, drop in to the new Super-hero Shop where you can get all of Marvel's toy, game, and novelty goodies. But now, before you start thinking we're tryin' to sell you something, let me give you something to worry about. King Kirby lives in California, and I hang my little pointy hat in New York. That means we're gonna have to collaborate on creating the world's greatest single comic book while we're 3,000 miles apart! And you think you've got troubles? Anyway, I'll issue a progress report here in ye olde Soapbox from time to time, so you can see how we're doing. Well, now that I've told you all about the upcoming SILVER SURFER sensation, maybe I oughta tell Kirby: He hates to be the last to know! And now—till next month, Believer, keep your surfboard shiny and always remember: Gardez le foi!

Excelsior!

ITEM! The snowy winds of winter may be blowing when you read this, but as your loyal armadillo hunts and pecks his way through these newsworthy notes, it's still Indian summer. And that's the time of one of the biggest events in all of comics, namely the annual World Comic Convention at Lucca, Italy. For four frantic days, thousands of fans from all over the globe gather to attend panels, symposiums, and exhibits honoring the top creators in the comic book/comic strip field. Among those honored in the past has been our own smiling leader, STAN "The Man" LEE. This year, JACK "King" KIRBY has been chosen as one of the guests of honor, and is attending the convention with his wonderful wife, ROSALIND. We couldn't be happier. The guy who, through the countless comics he's created, has enabled the rest of us to travel to such far-flung places as the Negative Zone, Asgard, and Ego's bioverse is finally getting time off from the drawing board to do some traveling himself! It's about time, Jack. Just don't forget to come back... you're the only one (outside of THE ETERNALS) who can keep those Celestials off our backs!

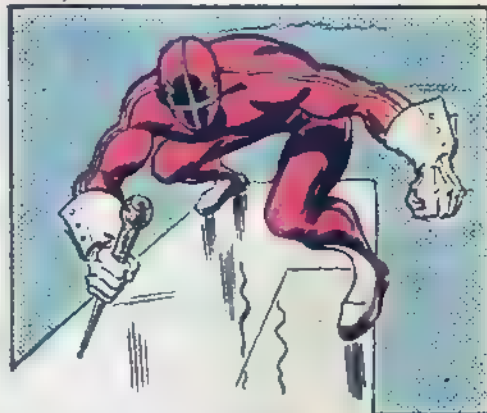
ITEM! Department of Deja Vu: January is the month when MARVEL PREVIEW featuring MAN-GOD hits your newsstand. You say you have the feeling you've read that bit of news before? All right. We confess. The last time when we announced the contents of the up-coming issue of our \$1.00 size black and white sampler book, it was supposed to be MAN-GOD, the oft-postponed Roy Thomas and Tony DeZuniga awesome adaptation of Phillip Wylie's GLADIATOR. No sooner had we committed ourselves in print than a large section of the recently completed pages disappeared in transit into the myriad byways of the United States mail. When finally they emerged safely, if somewhat frayed around the edges, we'd already been forced to substitute the LEGION OF MONSTERS. Now, it's time to try again. MAN-GOD has to hold a record as one of our most promised, most postponed projects ever. Have we finally beaten the curse that seems to haunt it? Only your local newsstand knows for sure.

ITEM! While we're mentioning the bombastic creations of our bustling black and white department, let's get in an early plug for the newest title in that line, THE RAMPAGING HULK. The second sensational issue will be on sale next month and has our grim goliath pitted against the original X-Men in yet another epic-length episode by DOUG MOENCH, WALT SIMONSON, and ALFREDO ALCALA. All that, plus a blazing BLOODSTONE back-up feature. Watch for it!

ITEM! On the personal front, let's welcome Shimmering SHARON ING, all around aide to our Vice President of Operations, Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY. And we can also say welcome back to 'Nuff Said NELSON YOMTOV, peerless production prince for our reprint line and sure-handed third baseman on the Bullpen softball team. Nellie just returned

tan and fit from two weeks vacation in Hawaii, an object of envy for every pale and flu-ridden armadillo on the staff. Fortunately, nice guy that he is, Nel brought back pineapples and slipped them into the cages so even our overworked bullpeners could have a taste of island life (ouch!). Meanwhile, even before receiving his pineapple, ace inker, Fearless FRANK GIACIOIA was beaming happily. And it's no wonder, since he's filled with pride for his youngest daughter, MARGARET, who was just recently married. Our best and warmest to both of you, Frank!

ITEM! By the time you're reading this, you probably will already have heard about THE HUMAN FLY. No, not the villain who debuted in last year's SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. The fella we're talking about is an actual daredevil who specializes in the kind of hair-raising stunts usually reserved for the super-types cavorting through the pages of our comics, and who will probably be in for some network TV coverage about the time this reaches you. But even if by chance you're one of those rare and resolute souls who refuses to watch the tube, you're still going to be hearing about THE HUMAN FLY, because merry Marvel's about to launch a very special comic book series based on this real-life super-hero. The stories are going to be fictional, but the background we'll draw upon is the Fly's own, and it's as exciting and incredible as any fictional adventurer's life ever was. As the book takes shape, we'll be keeping you informed of all the details. This is going to be an unusual one, so stay alert for it, hear?



ITEM! And as long as we're filling you in on future developments, let's look way ahead to next summer and finish with a rundown of what's in store in the way of 50¢ King-size Annuals. In no particular order, they are: THE INCREDIBLE HULK, CAPT. AMERICA, HOWARD THE DUCK, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MASTER OF KUNG FU, THE DEFENDERS, THOR, THE ETERNALS, FANTASTIC FOUR, INVADERS, IRON MAN, MARVEL-TWO-IN-ONE (which co-stars SPIDEY with the book's ever-lovin' blue-eyed host), AVENGERS, and CONAN THE BARBARIAN. Work's already started on some of them, and we think we've got a few pleasant surprises for you. We'll be revealing one or two of them next month. See you then.

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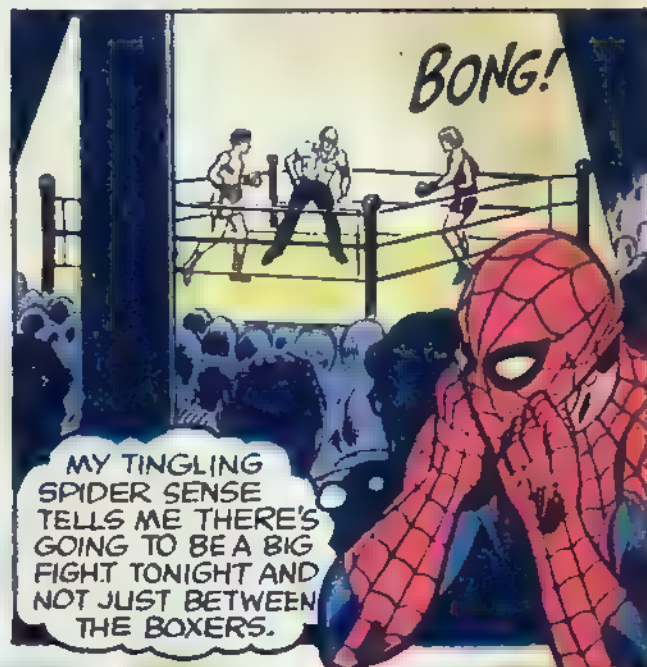
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THE DRESSING ROOM OF BOXING CHAMP, ALDO MOOMJAY, JUST BEFORE THE BIG FIGHT...

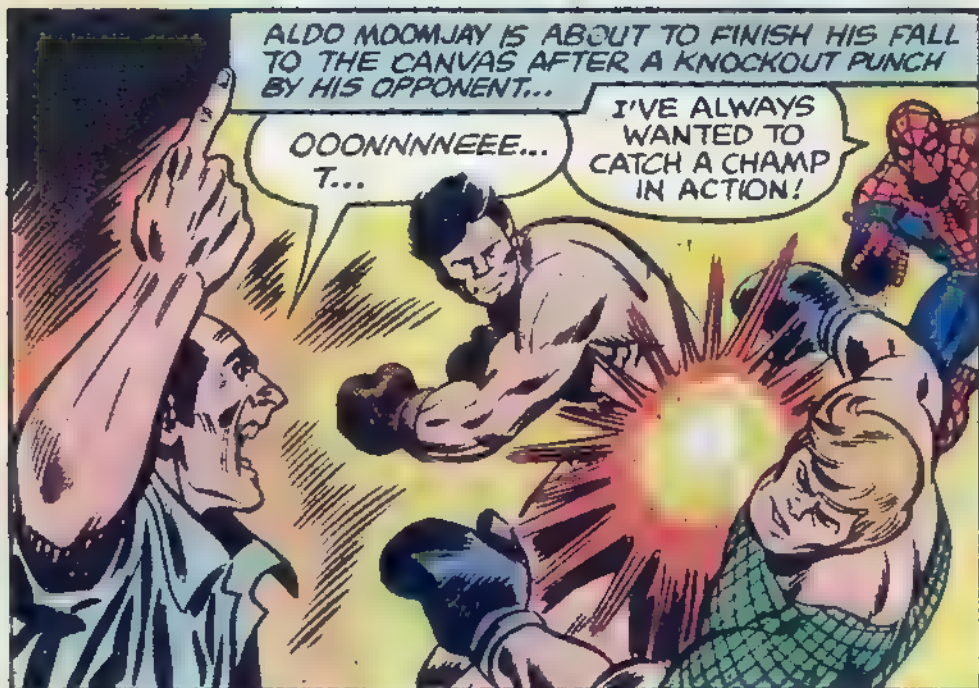


MY TINGLING SPIDER SENSE TELLS ME THERE'S GOING TO BE A BIG FIGHT TONIGHT AND NOT JUST BETWEEN THE BOXERS.

ALDO MOOMJAY IS ABOUT TO FINISH HIS FALL TO THE CANVAS AFTER A KNOCKOUT PUNCH BY HIS OPPONENT...

OOONNNNEEE... T...

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO CATCH A CHAMP IN ACTION!



HERE, HAVE A HOSTESS® CUP CAKE.

--TW...UMPH... WHAT'S THIS?... MMM... DELICIOUS MOIST CHOCOLATY CAKE...

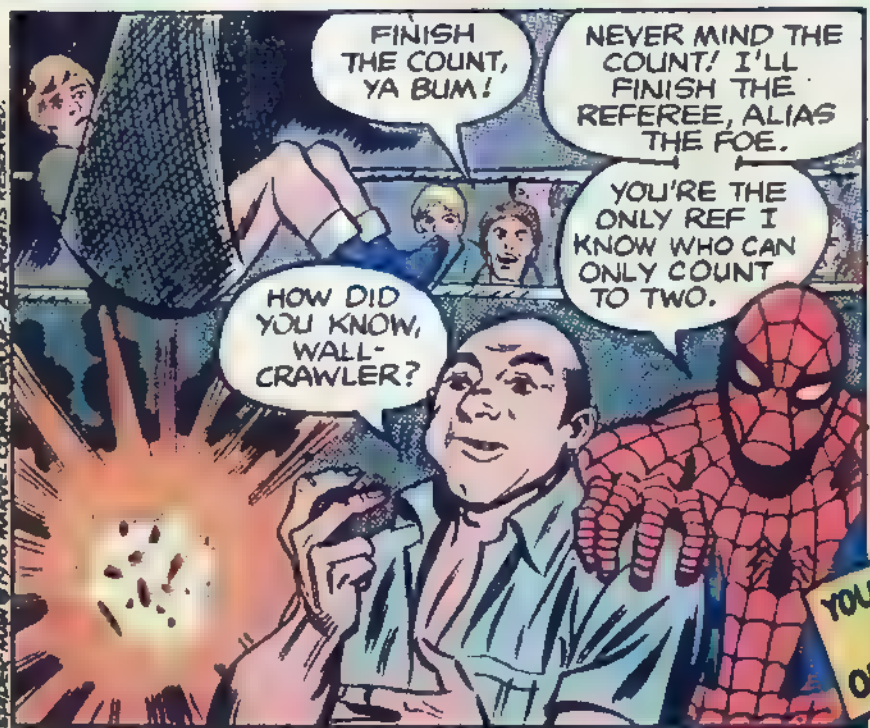


FINISH THE COUNT, YA BUM!

NEVER MIND THE COUNT! I'LL FINISH THE REFEREE, ALIAS THE FOE.

YOU'RE THE ONLY REF I KNOW WHO CAN ONLY COUNT TO TWO.

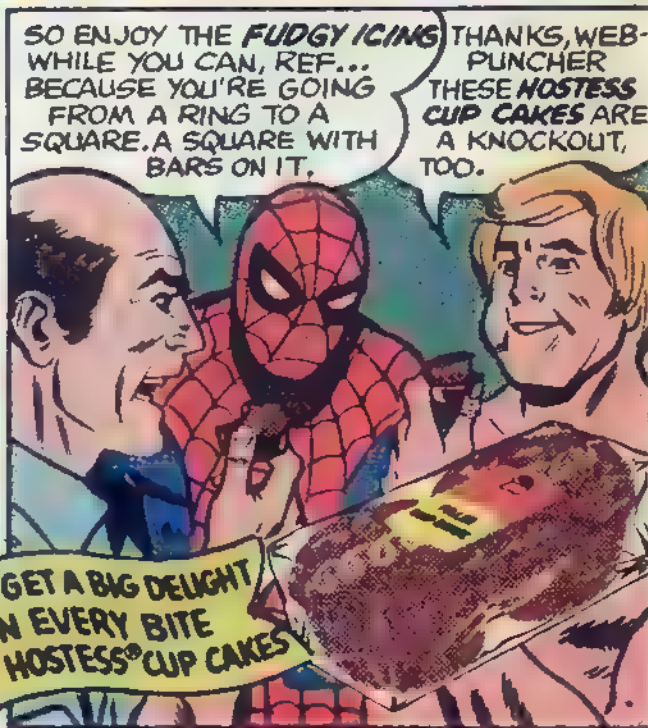
HOW DID YOU KNOW, WALL-CRAWLER?



SO ENJOY THE FUDGY ICING WHILE YOU CAN, REF... BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING FROM A RING TO A SQUARE. A SQUARE WITH BARS ON IT.

THANKS, WEB-PUNCHER THESE HOSTESS CUP CAKES ARE A KNOCKOUT, TOO.

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® CUP CAKES



SMITH, IF OUR WORTH
MUST BE MEASURED BY
THE ENEMIES WE OPPOSE
RATHER THAN THE
FRIENDS WE EMBRACE...



...THEN THOSE ENEMIES
MUST BE IDENTIFIED.
THEIR NAMES CALLED OUT
AND CHALLENGED ON A
FIELD OF BATTLE.

AND I MUST CALL
OUT YOUR NAME, SMITH
...FOR YOU ARE
MY ENEMY.



YOU ARE EVERYTHING
I OPPOSE IN THE
PROCESS OF HONOR
AND TRUTH WHICH IS
LIFE. BUT YOU ARE
ALSO A GOOD
AND NOBLE MAN, SMITH
--A MAN I CANNOT
OPPOSE.



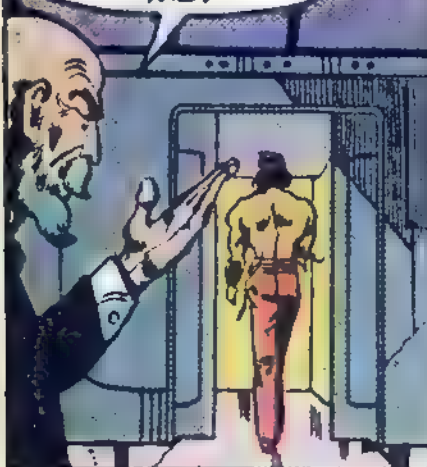
THUS, YOU ARE BOTH
FRIEND AND ENEMY...
AND THUS, YOU ARE
NEITHER. A MAN MAY
THINK WITH BUT
ONE MIND.

THUS, I CAN THINK
NOTHING OF YOU, SMITH,
FOR YOU ARE NOTHING
TO ME. NOTHING BUT
A MEMORY WITH TWO
SIDES...AND NO PROPER
PLACE OF FITTING
WITHIN MY PAST.



JUST A
MOMENT,
SHANG-
CHI.

DON'T YOU SEE WHAT
YOU'RE DOING? CAN'T
YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE
REJECTING YOUR OWN
PAST BY REJECTING
ME?



YOU CAN'T DO
IT, LAD. YOU CAN'T
SIMPLY TURN YOUR
BACK ON THE
PAST!!



I AM NOT, SMITH.
I AM MERELY--



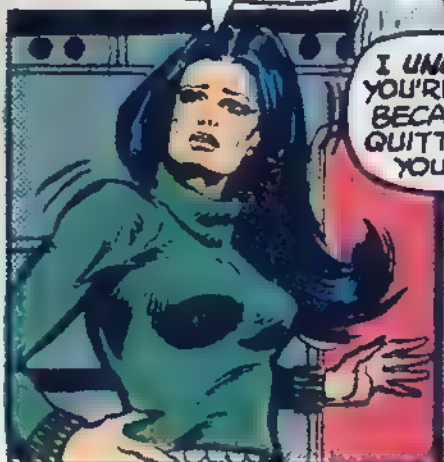
--TURNING MY FACE
TO THE FUTURE.



WAIT,
SHANG-CHI,
I--



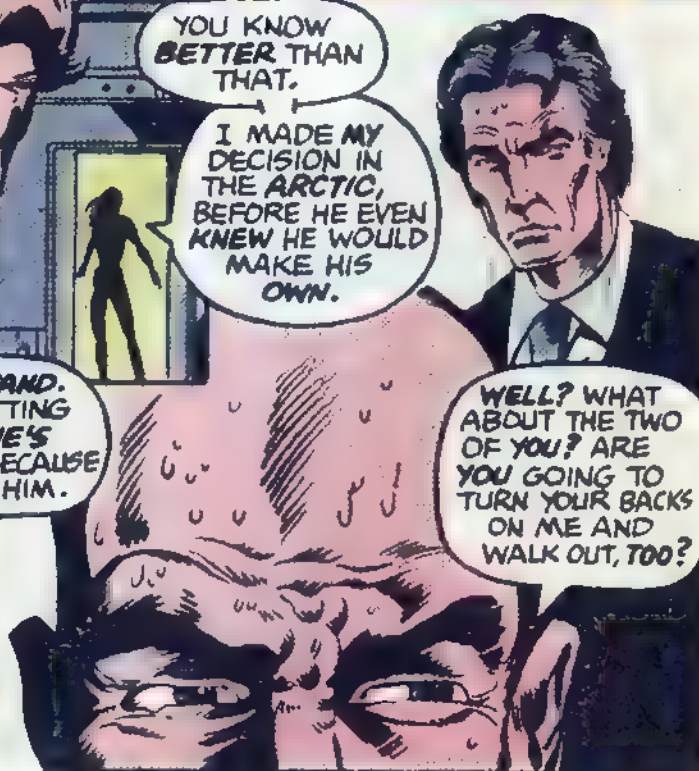
--I'M SORRY,
SIR DENIS, BUT...
WELL, I'VE HAD
ENOUGH, TOO...



I UNDERSTAND.
YOU'RE QUITTING
BECAUSE HE'S
QUITTING--BECAUSE
YOU LOVE HIM.

YOU KNOW
BETTER THAN
THAT.

I MADE MY
DECISION IN
THE ARCTIC,
BEFORE HE EVEN
KNEW HE WOULD
MAKE HIS
OWN.



WELL? WHAT
ABOUT THE TWO
OF YOU? ARE
YOU GOING TO
TURN YOUR BACKS
ON ME AND
WALK OUT, TOO?

TRUTH TO TELL, SIR DENIS, I WAS...CONSIDERING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

THEN GO ON, RESTON! LEAVE AND DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE MISSED! YOU ALWAYS WERE TOO HOTHEADED FOR THE SERVICE ANYWAY! YOU NEVER COULD--

AH, WHAT'S THE USE? NO SENSE IN RAILING AGAINST AN IMMATURE HEDONIST.

SO, BLACK JACK, I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND I--THE TWO OLD WARHORSES. BUT WE DON'T REALLY NEED THE OTHERS. THEY'RE TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND.

I JUST THANK GOD FOR YOUR LOYALTY. IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, I'D--

UH, SIR DENIS...?

YOU...TOO... BLACK JACK?

YOU...TOO... BLACK JACK?

JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, SIR DENIS--TO THINK THINGS OUT. NOT LIKE I'M DEFINITELY QUITTIN' OR ANYTHING.

WELL, I'LL... SEE YOU, SIR DENIS.

GONE...ALL OF THEM... EVEN BLACK JACK...LEFT ME ALONE...ALL ALONE.

WHAT...HAPPENS...NOW?

SHANGI-CHI! WAIT!

"I COULD NOT HALT THE FLOW OF BITTER WORDS, TOO MANY WORDS LEFT UNSAID FOR TOO LONG..."

"...TOO MANY LESSER EVILS FALSELY GUISED AS GOOD."

"I THINK OF LARNER, THE ONLY ONE WHO PLANNED TO LEAVE SMITH, THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD NOT, AND I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE REST OF US... NOW?"

NEXT ISSUE: ASK ANY SPY: IT AIN'T THAT EASY TO QUIT, AS FOUR DISTINCTLY UNSETTLED INDIVIDUALS LEARN, IN--

THE STORY OF WAR-YORE!

204^{pc} REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS^{set}

\$2²⁵

2 COMPLETE ARMIES—

EVERY PIECE OF MOLDED PLASTIC—EACH ON ITS OWN BASE
TWO COMPLETE ARMIES—THE **BRITISH** AND THE **AMERICANS**

RE-LIVE AGAIN THE FAMOUS BATTLES

OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION! FORM

YOUR OWN BATTLE LINES! HOURS OF FUN

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



HERE'S WHAT YOU GET:

- 36 Dragoons (Cavalryman)
- 12 Shooting Infantrymen
- 12 Marching Infantrymen
- 12 Crouching Infantrymen
- 12 Fifers
- 12 Charging Infantrymen
- 12 Sharpshooters
- 12 Field Cannon
- 12 Cannon Loaders
- 12 Drummers
- 12 Minute Men
- 24 Mohawk Indians
- 12 Officers
- 12 Hessian Troops

RUSH COUPON TODAY

Revolutionary War Soldiers
Dept. RWM-1 Box 536
Westbury, L.I., N.Y. 11590

NO
C.O.D.

Gentlemen:

Here's my \$2.25. Rush 204 Revolutionary War Soldiers to me. If not satisfied I may return merchandise for full refund!

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Allow 5-6 weeks for delivery.

No Canadian or foreign orders accepted!



People know and trust them from years of repeated, reliable quality.
Laura Albrecht
Nebraska



The Company trusted me. It was very easy to make \$6.00 profit. I can hardly wait for my next order.
Thomas Welch
South Carolina



It was fun! I'm ordering more because I had too many customers and not enough seeds.
Thomas Brophy
New York



Money does not grow on trees but money sure does by selling American Seeds.
Cindy Mayr
Pennsylvania



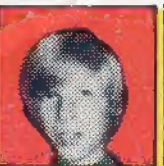
April Showers wouldn't have May flowers if I didn't sell American Seeds.
Patty Karlin
New York



The customer received a quality product which he wanted and I got the prize of my choice, which I wanted.
Kevin Jones
Missouri



They have E.S.P. (Easy Selling Power).
Michael Donnelly
New Jersey



When I was in need of money, American Seeds were by my side.
Andy Meisel
Kansas



The link between quality and American Seeds never breaks. And so, the link between me and earning great prizes never breaks.
Andy Meisel
Kansas



INSTANT LOAD CAMERA



3-SPEED BIKES



MICROSCOPE SETS



ROLLER DERBY SKATES



ALL PURPOSE SHOES



POCKET CALCULATOR



MODEL ROCKETRY



COMPLETE ARCHERY SETS



AXE & KNIFE SETS



STOPWATCH



WRIST WATCHES



BIKE SPEEDOMETER



BASEBALL GLOVES



BASKETBALL & GOAL



TRANSISTOR RADIO



30-POWER TELESCOPE



4-PLAYER BADMINTON



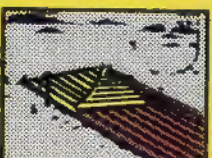
TENNIS SET



CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER



CROQUET SET



SLEEPING BAG



NYLON MOUNTAIN TENT



COMPLETE FISHING SETS



VOLLEYBALL SET



POLAROID CLINCHER



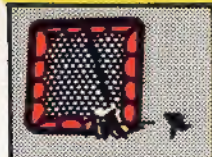
CHEMISTRY SETS



SWIM SET



GIRL'S TRAVEL CASE



PITCH BACK



JUNIOR GUITARS



ENGINE-POWERED MUSTANG

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Take your choice of 100 wonderful prizes. You can earn as many as you want—quickly, easily. Most prizes shown here and many more in our Big Prize Book are given **WITHOUT COST** for selling just one 45-pack order of American Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 40¢ a pack. Some of the larger prizes require more sales or extra money as explained in the Big Prize Book.

Send NO MONEY, We Trust You

Everybody wants American Seeds. They're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly to family, friends and neighbors. Many boys and girls sell their packs in one day. You can, too—and get your prize at once. Or, if you want money instead of a prize, keep \$6.00 for every 45-pack order you sell. There's no risk; any unsold packs may be returned.

ORDER NOW Your Prize is Ready

Mail coupon in envelope today for your seeds and Big Prize Book—give the other coupon to a friend.

AMERICAN SEED CO.

35 N. Prince St.,
Dept. 746
Lancaster, Pa. 17604
Our 58th Year

\$6,400.00

**Awarded in our
promptness con-
test in addition to
the prizes and
money you earn
selling seeds.**

Complete information
is sent with your Big
Prize Book and seeds.



MAIL ONE COUPON TODAY Give the Other to a Friend

**AMERICAN SEED CO., 35 N. Prince St.,
Dept. 746, Lancaster, Pa. 17604**

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 45 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 40¢ a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ All Vegetable Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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